

## Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 /066 W

----- 117191

R 090730Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL ZANZIBAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1152

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ZANZIBAR 0033

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT TZ

SUBJ: ASP-TANU MERGER ISSUE DOMINATES ASP'S 19TH BIRTHDAY  
CELEBRATIONS

REF: ZANZIBAR 0021

1. ISLAND OF PEMBA WAS FOCUS OF FEB 5 CELEBRATIONS OF 19TH BIRTHDAY OF AFRO-SHIRAZI PARTY. CONSULAR CORPS ATTENDED PEMBA ACTIVITIES FROM FEB 3 THROUGH FEB 7.

2. TANZANIAN PRESIDENT JULIUS NYERERE, WHO PRECEDED FIRST VICE PRESIDENT JUMBE ON SPEAKER'S PLATFORM AT MAIN EVENT IN NORTHERN TOWN OF KONDE, LAUNCHED FULL BLAST INTO ASP-TANU MERGER ISSUE. HE STATED THAT DATE SHOULD BE SET FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PARTY AND END OF PRESENT ONES. STRESSING FOLLY OF PRESENT SET-UP, HE CITED USSR, PRC AND ESPECIALLY USA AS STATES WHICH HAVE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS BUT UNIFIED POLITICAL PARTIES.

3. JUMBE'S RESPONSE TO NYERERE WAS VERY BRIEF: MERGER ISSUE WOULD BE TAKEN UP IN DISCUSSIONS IN PARTY BRANCHES. HE HAD CLEARLY COME TO PRAISE ASP, NOT DISCUSS ITS BURIAL, AND HE DEVOTED NEARLY ALL OF HIS SPEECH TO ASP'S ROLE IN NATION-BUILDING EFFORT.

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4. THIS WAS NYERERE'S FIRST VISIT TO ZANZIBAR SINCE HE FIRST PROPOSED MERGER LAST SEPTEMBER AND IT WAS BELIEVED HE WOULD COME LOADED FOR BEAR, ESPECIALLY AFTER LAST WEEK'S PRONOUNCEMENT BY TANU'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE THAT MERGER SHOULD PROCEED WITHOUT DELAY. BUT IT WAS EXPECTED THAT HE WOULD LOBBY IN PRIVATE AND NOT UNLOAD IN PUBLIC.

5. JUMBE AND NYERERE DISCUSSED ISSUE IN PEMBA FEB 5 IN FEW HOURS BETWEEN NYERERE'S ARRIVAL AND KONDE SPEECHES. NYERERE WAS PRESSED FOR DETAILS ON ORGANIZATION OF PROPOSED NEW PARTY BUT HE SAID HE WITHOUT LEGAL ADVISORS AND WAS WILLING TO DISCUSS SUBJECT ONLY IN GENERAL TERMS.

6. ZANZIBAR HOSTS HAD SOME SLIGHT WARNING THAT NYERERE'S SPEECH WOULD TOUCH ON ASP-TANU MERGER BUT WERE NOT PREPARED FOR FULL TREATMENT THAT EMERGED. JUMBE AND SEVERAL SENIOR ASP OFFICIALS MADE LITTLE EFFORT TO HIDE THEIR ANNOYANCE AND NYERERE, TO JUDGE BY HIS FACIAL EXPRESSIONS, WAS AT LEAST EQUALLY DISPLEASED WITH JUMBE'S BRUSH-OFF.

7. COMMENT: NYERERE SEEMS TO HAVE ACTED UNWISELY IN PUTTING JUMBE ON THE SPOT ON HIS OWN TURF. ALTHOUGH JUMBE PROBABLY FAVORS MERGER (REFTEL) HE KNOWS BETTER THAN TO GET MUCH OUT IN FRONT OF FELLOW ZANZIBARIS ON THIS SENSITIVE ISSUE. NYERERE SEEMS ALSO TO HAVE CHOSEN PARTICULARLY POOR MOMENT TO PRESS HIS CAUSE. EVENTS OF FEBRUARY 5 AND PRECEDING DAYS WERE INTENDED TO RAISE ASP LOYALTIES TO HIGHEST LEVEL. AT KONDE, JUST AFTER SUCCESSION OF PARTY LEADERS HAD MADE BRIEF SPEECHES EXTOLLING ASP (ZANZIBAR'S "MOTHER"), UP POPPED NYERERE TO PROPOSE THE WHOLE THING BE DISMANTLED.

8. CONSULATE'S INITIAL ASSESSMENT IS THAT NYERERE HAS PUT A STRAIN ON ZANZIBAR-MAINLAND RELATIONS AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO IF HE AGGRESSIVELY PRESSES MERGER. NYERERE HAS GIVEN LITTLE EVIDENCE TO DATE THAT HE IS SENSITIVE TO ZANZIBAR'S FEARS OF BEING SWALLOWED UP BY ITS VASTLY GREATER PARTNER. HIS AGGRESSIVENESS WILL RAISE SUSPICIONS ABOUT HIS MOTIVES AND STANDS TO INCREASE NUMBERS OF THOSE WHO OPPOSE PARTY UNITY. END COMMENT.  
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